

lying. And anyone who is in favor of doing nothing to deal with this fact is in favor of bankrupting it.

Medicare will go broke in as little as 9 years. No one likes this news, but it is the undeniable truth. And the sooner we begin to deal with it, the better off we are all going to be.

My goals are simple. First, I will not support any plan that changes Medicare for people like my mother who are currently on the plan. We cannot ask seniors to go out and get a job to pay for their health care.

Second, any solution must solve the problem. We need to save Medicare, not simply delay its bankruptcy.

And third, any solution cannot hurt economic growth. At a time of high unemployment, Americans cannot afford to pay more taxes.

I will support any serious plan that accomplishes these three things. It does not matter to me if it comes from a Democrat or a Republican. Saving Medicare is more important than partisan politics.

House Budget Committee Chairman PAUL RYAN has offered a plan. I support H. Con. Res. 34 because, right now, it is the only plan out there that helps save Medicare.

Democrats oppose this plan. Fine. But, if they have a better way to save Medicare, what are they waiting for to show us? What is their plan to save Medicare? Either show us how Medicare survives without any changes or show us what changes you propose we make. Anyone who supports doing nothing on Medicare is a supporter of bankrupting Medicare.

Where is the House Democrat plan to save Medicare?

Where is the Senate Democrat plan to save Medicare?

Where is President Obama's plan to save Medicare?

They have no plan to save Medicare, and they do not plan to offer one. They have decided that winning their next election is more important than saving Medicare for my mother and retirees like her.

I have been in the Senate just long enough to be disgusted by the reality that Washington has too many people who think their personal political careers are more important than our country's future.

Maybe the Democrats' strategy to use Medicare as a political weapon will work. Maybe not offering their own plan to save Medicare will help them win seats in Congress and reelect the President. Maybe it is great for the Democrat Party.

But it is terrible for people like my mother, and it is terrible for America.

Medicare is going bankrupt. If something does not happen soon, in just a few years whoever is in charge in Washington will have to go to people like my mother and tell them we can no longer afford to continue providing her with the same Medicare she is used to.

We have always had intense partisan politics in America. But throughout

our history, on issues of generational importance, our leaders have agreed to put aside politics for the sake of our country. Shouldn't saving Medicare be that kind of issue?

I am ready to work with anyone in Washington who is serious about saving Medicare. I am open to any serious solutions they have.

We are running out of time to save Medicare for our parents and secure it for our children. If we fail, history will never forgive us.

S. CON. RES. 20

Mr. President, I came here to support budgets that make tough spending reductions, save our safety net programs, and preserve our commitment to protecting Americans at home and abroad. In the midst of this fiscal crisis, there should be no sacred cows in the Federal budget, but we also can't walk away from our commitments abroad. Especially in this time of great upheaval around the world, and as America's enemies dream of a Greece-like day of reckoning that will leave us no choice but to abandon our allies around the world, I simply cannot support a budget that would make the world a less safe place because the United States' role in it is diminished.

TRIBUTE TO MARY JANE MCCARTHY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, Mary Jane McCarthy will retire at the end of May after more than 23 years of service to the U.S. Senate. As one of the official reporters of the debate in the Senate, Mary Jane and her colleagues ensure that the debates and votes of the Senate can be read by future generations.

Mary Jane started her professional career as a free-lance reporter in 1972 by recording government hearings at the Federal Trade Commission. Since that time, she has reported hearings and proceedings at the Federal Aviation Administration, and the National Labor Relations Board.

In the Senate, Mary Jane developed a reputation for understanding the intricacies of this legislative body. With her years of experience, Mary Jane knows the nuances of the parliamentary procedures so well that she is often asked to train new reporters when they enter the Senate. I am sure many of her colleagues have benefitted from her instruction.

I am proud to have worked with Mary Jane and I appreciate her important contributions to the Senate. I know I speak for the Senate family as we wish you the best in your future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO LLOYD ATOR

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, it is my very great pleasure to pay tribute to one of the great treasures of the Senate, Mr. Lloyd Ator. Lloyd is retiring after 17 years as the legislative counsel for the Commerce Committee,

and 11 years in the Senate Legislative Counsel's Office. Lloyd has been a truly outstanding public servant, and his service has made our country a better place.

Given the breadth of issues within the committee's jurisdiction, the legislative counsel is required to be something of a Renaissance man. Fortunately, that is a perfect description of Lloyd. He has been required to know the underlying law in so many areas, from the Olympics, to daylight savings time, railroad rates, aviation security screening, cellphone use, science standards, fisheries management, maritime liability, commercial privacy, and satellites. To draft concise, thoughtful, and technically accurate bills on this range of issues, as Lloyd has done, requires unparalleled skill, expertise and dedication. Lloyd is also a parliamentary expert and served as an outstanding resource for committee members. Even when every other committee did away with their own legislative counsels, the Commerce Committee was determined to keep Lloyd, knowing that his unique capabilities made him our "secret weapon."

Not only is Lloyd an experienced drafter, he is a man of unflagging spirit. One of Lloyd's most remarkable qualities is his unwavering patience. No matter how many times he was asked to rewrite an amendment or edit a draft, he never once rolled his eyes or expressed frustration. He continually responded calmly and patiently, offering a word of humor at just the right moment. His humorous comments on drafts of bills are legendary on the committee.

Lloyd has become a bulwark on the committee, respected by colleagues and Members on both sides of the aisle. As a trusted adviser, he has always maintained the utmost level of confidentiality, even while drafting competing bills. Despite this position of privileged knowledge, Lloyd has always remained discreet and has earned the respect of all with whom he has worked. Lloyd is someone that both the Members and the Commerce staff have come to rely on, time after time. It has been largely through Lloyd's hard work, patience, and extensive legislative knowledge that the Commerce Committee has been able to produce such high quality legislation for the past 17 years. He has played an important role in every major piece of legislation the committee has considered for the past decade and at the close of the last century.

Lloyd is an incredibly humble man and has never been one to seek recognition, which is part of why I am so pleased to honor him today. Lloyd's retirement signifies a great loss to the committee and to the Senate. As sad as we are to see him go, I know that he is looking forward to spending more time with his family, his dog, and on many more trips to France. It is with sincere thanks from a grateful committee that I wish him nothing but the best in the